REMARKS

This supplemental amendment is in response to a series of telephone conferences with the Examiner in which claim 16 and prior art were discussed. Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for her helpful assistance in working toward allowance of this application.

Claim 16

The invention, as now presented in amended claim 16, features a method for visualizing data. This method includes automatically assigning an order to the display query devices for each of the plurality of fields based on information in the stored data set and displaying the display query devices in the order assigned to them. The user can then adjust the query devices to update a graphical visualization for the data.

Automatically assigning an order for query devices and displaying them in this order is advantageous in that it allows the user to select a data set, and then immediately begin interacting with it. There is no need for them to initially decide on an appropriate order for a potentially large number of fields. There is not even a need for them to have much of an idea of what is in the data set. Users can just begin exploring full ranges of data within seconds or less.

Claim 16 stands rejected as anticipated by an article by Williamson entitled "The Dyanmic HomeFinder: Evaluating Dynamic Queries in a Real-Estate Information Exploration System." The Office Action argues that the Williamson article satisfies all of the elements of claim 16.

But the Williamson article does not disclose the invention as now claimed in amended claim 16. Specifically, nowhere does Williamson disclose or suggest automatically assigning an order to the display query devices for each of the plurality of fields based on information in the stored data set and displaying the display query devices in the order assigned to them. The order of sliders in Williamson's HomeFinder instead appears to be fixed by design rather than automatically detected from an order of fields or other information from a data file. Claim 16 therefore patently distinguishes over Williamson.
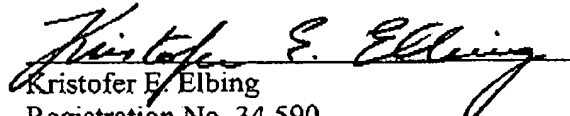
Claims 35 and 36 distinguish over the prior art of record for at least reasons similar to those advanced in support of claim 16. Claims 37, 38, and 40 have been amended to correct a minor antecedent basis error, and the term "the step of" has been removed from many of the claims to clarify antecedent basis as requested by the Examiner. Claim 42 has been added to clarify that one

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type of information in the data set can include relationships between an independent variable field and dependent variable fields and that this information can be used to order query devices independent of information conveyed by a preexisting field order. Support for claim 42 may be found in the substitute specification at least at page 5, line 19 – page 6, line 4, at page 20, line 14 – page 25, line 3, and in Figs. 3 and 5. The remaining claims are dependent and they should be allowable for at least the reason that they depend on an allowable claim.

This application should now be in condition for allowance, and a statement to this effect is respectfully requested. Should further questions arise concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' representative at the number listed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0750.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated

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